



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

August 28, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Robert Raben *RRB*
Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for August 28, 2000 - September 1, 2000

The House and Senate are in recess. The House will return on September 6; the Senate will return on September 5.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Native Hawaiian Hearings: From August 28 through August 31, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Campbell, Chair) and the House Resources Committee (Young, Chair) will hold a series of field hearings on S. 2899 and H.R. 4904, which pertain to the formal relationship between the United States and Native Hawaiians. Jacqueline Agtuca, Acting Director of the Office of Tribal Justice, will testify on behalf of the Department. (Ho)

Campaign Finance: The Department has been asked for factual assistance from minority staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee (Hatch, Chair) as part of their preparation of a minority report on campaign finance issues in anticipation of a report Senator Specter intends to release. We are working with them to provide answers to their questions and to set up briefings as needed. The Department also responded to oral requests for individual documents from Senator Specter's staff; a member of his staff was scheduled to go to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) offices to re-review documents related to Wen Ho Lee to which they had previously been given access.

Department representatives from the Criminal Division are scheduled to meet on August 29, with minority staff from the Senate Judiciary Committee to answer factual questions related to campaign finance issues in preparation for drafting a minority report. (Walter)

The Department will continue to work with the House Government Reform Committee (Burton, Chair) on outstanding document requests. (Tanner)

House Judiciary Committee Oversight: Committee staff have requested additional information about payments of attorneys fees for federal employees and we are conferring with them about how best to accommodate their information needs without undue burden on Civil Division resources. We also expect to provide them with access to the declassification memoranda regarding our criminal investigation of two federal employees who were involved in the disclosure of Privacy Act protected information relating to Ms. Linda Tripp. Access to the

documents will be followed by a briefing to answer staff questions and further clarify our position in this matter. The access will be provided pursuant to a confidentiality agreement. (Burton)

Waco: We are continuing to work with staff of the House Government Reform Committee (Burton, Chair) as they conclude their oversight investigation of this matter. They have requested informal interviews of line attorneys in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of Texas, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], which are under consideration within the Department. Since these individuals remain within the purview of the Special Counsel's investigation and are themselves represented by private counsel, it is not clear that they would agree to be interviewed regardless of the Department's position. Our document production to the Committee also is continuing. (Burton)

FOIA EXEMPTION (b)(6)

House Government Reform Subpoena for Declination Memoranda: Committee staff have reasserted their demand for access to OPR declination memoranda relating to unauthorized disclosures of classified information by [REDACTED]. These documents were within the scope of a Committee subpoena for multiple declination memoranda; the remaining memoranda, which originated with the Criminal Division, have already been made available for review by the staff. We are conferring with OPR, but expect to provide access to these documents in the near future. (Burton)

FOIA EXEMPTION (b)(6)

Telecom Mergers: The Department continues to work with House and Senate staff contacts on pending legislation (S. 467 [DeWine/Kohl] and H.R. 4019 [Pickering/Tauzin]), and on the pending telecom merger bills that would prohibit mergers of a U.S. telecom company with a company with more than 25 percent foreign government ownership (S.2793 [Hollings] and H.R. 4903 [Dingell/Markey]). A briefing for House Intelligence Committee staff on the Department's and FBI's law enforcement and national security interests in these bills is in the process of being scheduled. (Walter)

Loral: The Department was asked to provide follow up information arising out of the July 14 meeting with Senate Judiciary staff; a letter is being drafted by the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Columbia. Documents originating from other agencies that were responsive to the Senate Judiciary Committee's subpoena are being processed and should be ready for release in early September. (Walter)

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Abortion: On August 24, staff from the Office of Legislative Affairs met with staff of the House Judiciary Committee (Hyde, Chair) to answer questions regarding the Violence Against Abortion Providers Conspiracy Task Force (VAAPCON), which was active from 1994-1996. Judicial Watch has alleged that files were kept by the task force on members of certain anti-abortion groups. (First)

Briefing for Colombia Trip: On August 23, Mary Lee Warren, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division, and a representative from the Office of Legislative Affairs participated in a briefing for Congressional staffers for Members of Congress who are going on a trip to Colombia at the end of the month. (Graupensperger)

Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative: On August 22, representatives from the Office of Tribal Justice, the Associate Attorney General's Office, and the Office of Legislative Affairs participated in a briefing sponsored by the White House and the Congressional Native American Caucus to explain to House staffers the serious issues faced by Indian Country and the great need for Federal involvement in Indian Country. Specifically, the briefing focused, among other things, on our programs and the current severe lack of funding of the Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative. (Ho)